

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S HEROES, U.S. ENERGY POLICY, AND FOCUSING ON PREVENTIVE HEALTH CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, over the next several minutes, we here in the majority are going to talk about two issues that are incredibly important to the future of our country: our energy policy and then preventive health care and personal responsibility in trying to get our arms around the rising costs of health care.

But before I begin our discussion on energy, and especially in light of the commentary that we just heard on the House floor and the very patriotic tribute by the gentleman from Maryland to the Greatest Generation, I thought I would pause and pay a tribute to a person who I may have met, I am not sure, but I heard this week about his life, and he died a week ago in Iraq, a young patriot named Noah Harris, Second Lieutenant, United States Army, a platoon leader from Ellijay, Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, three summers ago he was interning here in Washington in the office of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL), and he felt a passion to volunteer to serve our country at this time of war in response to the terrorist threat, and he signed up, and he went.

I happened to be taking a tour group through the Senate this week, just yesterday, and I sat in the Senate gallery and I heard the distinguished Senator from Georgia, Senator ISAKSON, pay tribute to Noah Harris's life, because in May of this year, Lieutenant Harris sent Senator ISAKSON this note from Iraq to Senator ISAKSON. He said, "Now I am serving my country as an infantry officer in Iraq. I am proud to say that the situation is improving here. The

media often misses the big picture. Our presence here is not just about Iraq, it is sending a message to the oppressed peoples of the world that freedom can be a reality. Freedom is the greatest gift that we, the United States, has been granted and, as such, it is our responsibility to spread it. For it to become a permanent fixture in our future and our children's future, we must give it to all those that desire it."

Mr. Speaker, he said that last month; and then, last week, he gave that full, that last full measure of devotion to our country. I pay tribute to this great American hero. Tomorrow, they will gather in the mountains of north Georgia, down below my district in Tennessee, to pay their last respects to him.

But he represents so many of our brave and proud citizens who are willing to volunteer to lay their life on the line and stand between a threat to our civilian population and advance the cause of freedom around the world. I think we have to hold them up as the greatest of our citizens and, frankly, stand behind the mission that they believe in.

He sent the word back that he believed in what he was doing and it was making a huge difference in the world. That is why it is important for us to come to the floor; and I pulled these words out of my pocket as I heard the testimony on the floor, because I think we need to honor the life of Noah Harris and every other one like him.

Now, our national security does hang in the balance as it relates to our energy security. The case is very clear, I believe, that we need a national energy policy, the first one in a generation. And for three consecutive Congresses, we have gotten close to having an agreement between the House and the Senate for a national energy policy, but we have not yet sent a bill to the President of the United States.

We stand on the threshold of doing that today, because the House has passed a bill and the Senate is very, very close. I think they have had a cloture vote and they expect to pass the bill this coming Tuesday in the United States Senate so that we can go to conference and work out the differences and, ultimately, send a national energy policy to the President of the United States, hopefully in July, so that we can then send word to our private sector and anyone in the energy industry what the national policy is so those investments will follow.

Now, here in the House, we have had some reorganization around this issue of energy. I serve on the House Policy Committee under the very able leadership of the gentleman from Arizona (Chairman SHADEGG), and he recently reorganized the policy committee in the House to name a new Subcommittee on Energy and Technology and asked me to chair that subcommittee. I come to the floor tonight in that regard, and I want to discuss this issue of advancing tax policies and

incentives to encourage energy independence, to make sure we have the energy resources for us to maintain our productivity as a Nation. I believe it is a win-win-win opportunity for the United States of America, and I will tell my colleagues why.

I believe the 3 years that we balanced the budget here in the late 1990s were a direct result of increased revenues to the Federal Treasury. Now, we did show some spending restraint for the first time in a generation by holding the growth of government spending below inflation and allowing revenues to exceed expenses, but it really was a revenue-generated effort to balance the budget. The revenues were generated largely because, for a sustained number of years, we led the world in the information explosion.

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You think of Microsoft and you think of software and you think of the whole advancement of information technology this country led, in a major way, this breakthrough in the economy, and, as a result, record revenues with a sound robust economy were generated and we balanced the budget.

I would also tell you that given the challenges we face in the wake of September 11, the likelihood that we balance the budget again is very low unless we have another sector of our economy that explodes with export-driven manufacturing technology that will cause revenues to dramatically climb. And I say that as a member of the Appropriations Committee, because if you eliminate all of the non-defense, nonhomeland security discretionary spending of the government, you would still be at a break-even. If you eliminated all of the nondefense, nonhomeland security, discretionary spending you would still either be at a budget deficit or very close.

So it is very difficult to balance the budget unless you have increasing revenues. This whole sector called entech, energy technologies, presents that kind of an opportunity for this country to grow the U.S. economy, export energy solutions to the world, solve many of our own energy and homeland security problems, and serve the world right. It would actually cause such global leadership from the United States, that we would solve a whole lot of our problems all at once.

A very prominent person in the energy sector that I know personally named Riley Bechtel, the chairman and CEO of one of the largest family-held companies in this country, I think a fourth- or fifth-generation energy company called Bechtel National, he told me right after September 11 that we needed to understand that energy security is homeland security. Energy security is national security. And I think that is the approach that the Congress has taken today.

And I will also tell you that a very prominent editorialist with the New York Times, Thomas Friedman, who